



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Chattanooga, TN

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

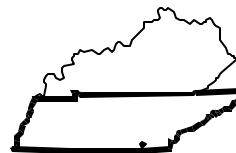
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Chattanooga for a Brownfields Pilot. Of Chattanooga's 152,466 residents, approximately 5,300 live in the project area of Alton Park. This targeted area has a poverty rate of 61 percent, with a median household income of \$12,300. The area's population is 98 percent African American.

The Pilot targets the 2.7-square-mile Alton Park area that was once home to the foundries, tanneries, brick kilns, glass container manufacturers, and textile mills that made the city a thriving hub of manufacturing known in the 1930s as the "Dynamo of Dixie." For a century, the economy in Alton Park was strong and the area bustled with industrial jobs, local businesses, and residential neighborhoods. But by the 1960s, new manufacturing methods and the changing economy led to the deterioration of the major industries in Chattanooga. Residents who could afford to moved to the suburbs, retail businesses closed, schools shut down, and there was a perception that many of the decaying buildings in Alton Park were contaminated. The area has approximately 34 state-designated contaminated sites, five of which are targeted by the Pilot.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Chattanooga, Tennessee

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets 70
acres in the Alton Park area,
a former manufacturing hub.

Contacts:

Chattanooga/Hamilton County Brownfields Program (426) 867-4321	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA - Region 4 (404) 562-8661
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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts,
additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and
publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The city is working with community groups and the state and federal government to sustainably revitalize and restore Chattanooga to a source of local pride and economic opportunity. The city currently has several nationally recognized urban redevelopment projects underway, and the Pilot is an extension of these ongoing activities. The newly created Chattanooga/Hamilton County Brownfields Program will coordinate and implement Pilot activities. For the longer term, the program will be a catalyst for business expansion and relocation, job creation, environmental cleanup and neighborhood rebuilding. To help accomplish these objectives, the Pilot will identify and assess contamination at five sites in the project area, as well as assist in the development and implementation of innovative ways to finance cleanup.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating a brownfields inventory;
- Conducting Phase I and II assessments at five priority sites in Alton Park;
- Establishing site redevelopment criteria through the use of a community and stakeholder participation process; and
- Creating cleanup and redevelopment plans that identify innovative financing mechanisms for cleanup and address ownership procedures.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.